

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

09	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO.: CR04-411-JCC
)	
10	Plaintiff,)	
)	
11	v.)	SUMMARY REPORT OF U.S.
)	MAGISTRATE JUDGE AS TO
12	LEWIS VINCENT HUGHES,)	ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
)	OF SUPERVISED RELEASE
13	Defendant.)	
)	

15 An evidentiary hearing on supervised release revocation in this case was scheduled before
16 me on September 14, 2005. The United States was represented by AUSA Tessa M. Gorman and
17 the defendant appeared *pro se* with stand-by counsel Jennifer E. Wellman. The proceedings were
18 recorded on cassette tape.

19 Defendant¹ had been sentenced on or about January 21, 2005 by the Honorable John C.
20 Coughenour on a charge of Forcibly Resisting and Impeding Federal Agents in Performance of
21 their Duties and sentenced to 10 Months Custody, 3 years Supervised Release.

22 The conditions of supervised release included requirements that defendant comply with all
23 local, state, and federal laws and with the standard conditions of supervision. Other special
24

25 ¹ Defendant asserts that he is not Lewis Vincent Hughes, but rather is "Lewis Vincent of
26 the family Hughes descendants" (Dkt. 6, 10, and other documents). Accordingly, he disputes that
he is the defendant, but rather states that he is appearing for the defendant. Previous court
documents filed by the United States allege that the defendant is connected to the "Common Law
movement" and does not recognize the jurisdiction of this Court.

01 conditions included cooperation in the collection of DNA, no firearms, submit to search, cooperate
02 in furnishing financial information to the IRS and pay all outstanding tax liabilities, provide access
03 to financial information to probation officer, maintain a single checking account for all financial
04 transactions, report any business interests to probation officer, disclose all assets and liabilities,
05 report any change in financial status to probation officer that could affect ability to pay restitution,
06 and a fine in the amount of \$1,000.

07 Defendant commenced supervision on June 24, 2005. In an application dated August 3,
08 2005, U.S. Probation Officer Jerrod Akins alleged the following violation of the conditions of
09 supervised release:

10 1. Failing to submit to DNA testing as instructed by the U.S. Probation Office, in
11 violation of the general condition that he cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the
12 probation officer.

13 2. Failing to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service to determine all taxes due
14 and owing in violation of the special condition that he cooperate with and furnish financial
15 information and statements to the Internal Revenue Service to determine all taxes due and owing,
16 including interest and penalties, and file any past tax returns in a timely manner.

17 3. Failing to allow the U.S. Probation Office to conduct a credit check, in violation
18 of the special condition that he provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial
19 information, including authorization to conduct credit checks and obtain copies of the defendant's
20 federal income tax returns.

21 Defendant was advised in full as to those charges and as to his constitutional rights. He
22 denied the charges and requested a full evidentiary hearing, which was held on September 14,
23 2005. The United States presented evidence and the testimony of defendant's probation officer,
24 Jerrod Akins. The defendant testified. Exhibits were admitted. Defendant was given the
25 opportunity to have stand-by counsel present argument, which he declined. In weighing the
26 evidence, the Court has considered the witnesses' memory, the witnesses' ability and opportunity

01 to observe, the witnesses' manner while testifying, any interest, bias or prejudice of the witnesses,
02 and the reasonableness of the witnesses' testimony when considered in light of all the evidence in
03 the case. I recommend that the Court find as follows with regard to the alleged violations of
04 supervise release.

05 **DNA Testing (Violation number 1)**

06 The government has established by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant
07 violated special condition number one of the conditions of supervised release by failing to submit
08 to DNA testing. The testimony of Mr. Akins established that he made a request to Mr. Hughes
09 to submit to the testing, and Mr. Hughes refused, saying that he had copyrighted his DNA. A
10 letter was sent to Mr. Hughes on June 27, 2005 informing him of the need to report on August
11 2, 2005 for DNA testing, and the defendant failed to report. Furthermore, the defendant
12 specifically indicated at the time of the evidentiary revocation hearing that he would not submit
13 to DNA testing under any circumstances, as he was opposed to it as a matter of principle.
14 Therefore, I recommend that the Court find that the defendant has violated his supervised release
15 as set forth in alleged violation number one.

16 **Failure to cooperate with Internal Revenue Service (Violation number 2)**

17 Mr. Akins testified that he had two discussions with the defendant where he asked him
18 to sign consent forms authorizing the probation office to obtain tax information from the Internal
19 Revenue Service, but the defendant refused both times. He informed Mr. Hughes that he would
20 accept documentation from the IRS that established that Mr. Hughes did not have any tax
21 liabilities in lieu of the release. Mr. Hughes testified (*q.b.*, Fn. 1) that he attempted to provide the
22 alternative documentation, contacting the IRS via a 800 toll-free number, but no one at the IRS
23 was able to tell him which document would provide this information. At the hearing, Mr. Hughes
24 signed the requested IRS form as Lewis Vincent "A citizen of Washington, a foreign national to
25 the United States" under the notation "No Liability Accepted, No Assured Value", with taxpayer
26 name Lewis Vincent Hughes and a social security number (Ex. 4). The original form was provided

01 to Mr. Akins. This form may prove adequate for the probation service to obtain the required IRS
02 records, so it is recommended that the Court hold this alleged violation in abeyance. In the event
03 the probation office is successful in obtaining Mr. Hughes' IRS records by utilizing this release
04 form, it is recommended that this allegation be dismissed. If not, then it is recommended that it
05 be found that the defendant violated his supervised release as set forth in alleged violation number
06 two.

07 **Failing to provide access to financial information (Violation number 3)**

08 Mr. Akins testified that he met with Mr. Hughes on June 27, 2005 upon commencing
09 supervision, and that Mr. Hughes signed the standard "Conditions of Probation and Supervised
10 Release", acknowledging receipt of a copy, with a similar annotation as described in the preceding
11 paragraph, "No Liability Assumed, No Value Assured". (Ex. 1) He asked Mr. Hughes to sign a
12 "Customer Consent and Authorization for Access to Financial Records During Supervision" and
13 "Authorization to Release Information"(Ex. 2). Mr. Hughes refused to sign the forms because he
14 said that any credit would be in the name and social security number of a person did he did not
15 recognize, i.e. Lewis Vincent Hughes, his correct identity being "Lewis Vincent of the family of
16 Hughes". At hearing, Mr. Hughes affirmed that he refused to sign the credit release forms for this
17 reason, but also stated that he did not accept the judgment or sentence of this Court, which he
18 considers to be void *ab initio*. Further, Mr. Hughes pointed out that the document which is the
19 second page of Exhibit 2 requests employment, medical and psychological/psychiatric records in
20 addition to credit information, which the Court has not required him to provide.

21 At hearing, Mr. Hughes agreed to sign the first document, consisting of the credit history
22 consent form, with his standard conditions of "No Liability Accepted, No Assured Value" and as
23 Lewis-Vincent: Hughes (Ex. 3). This would appear to satisfy the request for authorization to
24 conduct the credit check. However, Mr. Hughes continues to refuse to sign the second document,
25 which authorizes probation to obtain employment, medical and psychological/psychiatric records
26 in addition to credit documents.

01 Alleged violation number three charges Mr. Hughes with “failing to allow the U.S.
02 Probation Office to conduct a credit check, in violation of the special condition that he provide
03 the probation officer with access to any requested financial information, including authorization
04 to conduct credit checks and obtain copies of the defendant’s federal income tax returns.” It
05 would appear that the form signed by Mr. Hughes at the evidentiary revocation hearing would
06 allow the probation office to conduct the credit check, so it does not appear that the violation has
07 been proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

08 With regard to the second page of the requested release documents, Mr. Hughes argues
09 that the conditions of supervised release do not specifically authorize the probation office to
10 require him to release employment, medical, or psychological/psychiatric records. Arguably,
11 standard condition 3 (“The defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer
12 and follow the instructions of the probation officer”) would allow this information to be requested,
13 but the defendant is not charged with violating this particular condition of supervised release.
14 Furthermore, this standard condition appears a bit broad to provide the defendant with fair notice
15 that he would be expected to allow the probation office access to his employment, medical and
16 psychological/psychiatric records as a condition of supervised release. Therefore, it is
17 recommended that it be found that defendant has not committed alleged violation number 3.

18 Conclusion

19 I therefore recommend the Court find defendant violated his supervised release as alleged
20 in violation one, that alleged violation two be held in abeyance, and that the defendant be found
21 to not have violated his supervised release as alleged in violation number three. It is recommended
22 that the Court conduct a hearing limited to the issue of disposition. The next hearing will be set
23 before Judge Coughenour.

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01 Pending a final determination by the Court, defendant has been released on the conditions
02 of supervised release.

03 DATED this 16th day of September, 2005.

04 

05 Mary Alice Theiler
06 United States Magistrate Judge

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09 cc: District Judge: Honorable John C. Coughenour
10 AUSA: Tessa M. Gorman
11 Defendant: Lewis Vincent Hughes
Standby defense attorney: Jennifer E. Wellman
12 Probation officer: Jerrod Akins
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